

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

28. (Currently amended) An absorbent article adapted to fit about a waist of a wearer, including a rear waist of the wearer, the absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the absorbent article further comprising:

front and rear waist sections with at least a first portion of the rear waist section formed of a stretchable material,

an intermediate section which includes an absorbent portion and which intermediate section interconnects the front and rear waist sections, and

a gasketing assembly including at least one gasket element having a face portion, at least one base portion deployable toward the rear waist of the wearer and at least one thrust portion, the gasketing assembly further at least one thrust portion including at least one discrete compression resistant member, the at least one thrust portion effective to deploy the gasket element face portion toward the rear waist of the wearer, the gasketing assembly operatively joined with the stretchable material of the first portion of the rear waist section to mechanically deploy the at least one gasket

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element upon tensioning of the stretchable material to fill a volume occurring between the rear waist section of the absorbent article and the rear waist of the wearer, the at least one gasket element configured upon deployment to inhibit a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a ~~body faceable~~ bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article.

29. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 having a longitudinal centerline wherein the at least one gasket element is centered about the longitudinal centerline.

30. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein, upon deployment of the at least one gasket element, the gasket element face portion deploys adjacent the rear waist of the wearer.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the compression resistant member is encased within a ~~soft~~ an inner covering.

33. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 comprising at least a pair of opposed thrust portions effective to deploy the gasket element face portion toward the rear waist of the wearer.

C | 34. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 33 wherein each of the pair of opposed thrust portions comprises a discrete compression resistant member.

35. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 34 wherein the compression resistant member of each of the pair of opposed thrust portions is encased within ~~a soft~~ an inner covering.

36. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein a first longitudinal edge of the at least one gasket element is joined at the rear waist section of the absorbent article to form a closed rear waist end portion.

37. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 36 wherein the gasketing assembly is effective to form a containment volume effective to contain human discharge therewithin.

38. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein the gasketing assembly is effective to contain human discharge spaced apart from contact with a body of the wearer.

39. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

C/ 40. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward the rear waist of the wearer.

41. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

42. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the at least one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a pair of thrust portions each having a first terminal end connected to a face of the bodyside liner.

43. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the at least one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and the gasketing assembly comprises a pair of leg member thrust portions, each leg member thrust portion having first and second terminal ends with the first terminal end of each leg member thrust portion connected to a face of the bodyside liner and the second terminal end of each leg member thrust portion connected to the first portion of the rear waist section formed of a stretchable material.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) In a disposable absorbent article which defines a longitudinal direction with a longitudinal centerline and a lateral direction and which absorbent article includes a waist section having a stretchable waist material adapted to fit about a waist of a wearer, the wearer having a rear waist and a lower back, the improvement comprising:

a gasketing assembly including at least one gasket element, the gasket element comprising a face portion, at least one base portion and at least one thrust portion, the at least one thrust portion comprising at least one discrete compression resistant member, the gasketing assembly operatively joined with the stretchable waist material about the longitudinal centerline of the absorbent article to deploy the at least

one gasket element against the lower back of the wearer when the stretchable waist material is in a stretched condition to fill a volume occurring between the waist section of the absorbent article and the rear waist of the wearer and to form a containment volume, the deployed at least one gasket element being effective to inhibit flow of matter between the rear waist of the wearer and the waist material of the absorbent article.

C1 46. (Currently amended) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the at least one gasket element comprises a face portion and at least a pair of opposed thrust portions effective to deploy the face portion toward the waist of the wearer.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously added) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

49. (Previously added) The disposable absorbent article of claim 45 additionally comprising a bodyside liner deployable by action of the gasketing assembly toward the waist of the wearer.

50. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 49 wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a plurality of gasket elements.

51. (Previously added) The absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the at least one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and wherein the gasketing assembly comprises a pair of thrust portions each having a first terminal end connected to a face of the bodyside liner.

52. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 45 wherein the at least one gasket element is formed at least in part by a bodyside liner and the gasketing assembly comprises a pair of ~~leg members~~ thrust portions, each ~~leg member~~ thrust portion having first and second terminal ends with the first terminal end of each ~~leg member~~ thrust portion connected to a face of the bodyside liner and the second terminal end of each ~~leg member~~ thrust portion connected to the stretchable waist material.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently amended) In an absorbent article adapted to fit about a waist of a wearer, including a rear waist of the wearer, the absorbent article having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and which absorbent article includes a front waist section, a stretchable rear waist section, and an intermediate section which interconnects the front and rear waist sections and which intermediate section includes an absorbent portion, a method comprising:

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tensioning the stretchable rear waist section to deploy at least one gasket element to fill a volume occurring between the rear waist section of the absorbent article and the rear waist of the wearer and thereby inhibit a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a ~~body-faceable~~ bodyfacing surface of the absorbent article, the at least one gasket element comprising a face portion, at least one base portion and at least one thrust portion, the at least one thrust portion comprising at least one discrete compression resistant member.

55. (Previously added) The method of claim 54 wherein the absorbent article has a longitudinal centerline and wherein the gasket element is centered about the longitudinal centerline.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously added) The method of claim 54 wherein upon deployment of the gasket element, a containment volume effective to contain human discharge therewithin and spaced apart from contact with a body of the wearer is formed.

c/ 58. (Previously added) The method of claim 54 wherein the absorbent article also includes a bodyside liner wherein deployment of the gasket element directs the bodyside liner toward the waist of the wearer.

59. (Previously added) The method of claim 54 wherein the tensioning of the stretchable rear waist section effects deployment of a plurality of gasket elements for inhibiting a longitudinal flow of human discharge along a body faceable surface of the absorbent article.